

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /093 W
-----058996 232048Z /73

R 231345Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7941
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
EUCOM
USCINCEUR
/CINCUSAFE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS ANKARA 4799

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJ: NATIONALIST PARTIES CONTINUE OPPOSITION TO NEW TURKISH GOVERN-
MENT

REF: ANKARA 4748 (DTG 220945Z JUN 77)

1. JUNE 23 TURKISH PRESS REPORTS THAT JUSTICE PARTY (JP)
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED JUNE 22 TO VOTE
AGAINST THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, WHICH IS
EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE FIRST WEEK OF JULY. CONTINUING TO ATTACK
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PRESIDENT KORUTURK FOR APPOINTING ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S
PARTY (RPP) CABINET IN THE FACE OF DECLARATIONS BY THE THREE
"NATIONALIST" PARTIES (WHICH AMONG THEM HAVE A MAJORITY OF THE
DEPUTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY), JP LEADER DEMIREL AGAIN
CHARGED THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS "ILLEGAL" AND IS A " FAIT-
ACCOMPLI GOVERNMENT." DEMIREL DECLARED THAT " THOSE WHO
DEFEND LEGALITY WILL UNITE AND FORM A GOVERNMENT OF THE

NATIONAL WILL...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN PLACE OF THE CANKAYA GOVERNMENT." (CANKAYA IS THE LOCATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.)

2. THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S FIRST DAY IN OFFICE PRODUCED A FLURRY OF PERSONNEL CHANGES, THE MOST NOTABLE OF WHICH WAS THE REMOVAL OF TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) DIRECTOR SABAN KARATAS. KARATAS, A JP APPOINTEE FREQUENTLY ACCUSED OF PARTISANSHIP, HAD LONG BEEN HANGING ON TO HIS JOB DESPITE A COUNCIL OF STATE DECREE DECLARING HIS APPOINTMENT ILLEGAL. WHEN ECEVIT DECLARED THAT ALL PENDING COUNCIL OF STATE DECREES WERE TO BE ENFORCED AND ASKED KARATAS TO LEAVE, KARATAS DID SO, ALTHOUGH HE PROTESTED THAT PROPER PROCEDURES WERE NOT BEING FOLLOWED. OTHER PERSONNEL CHANGES REPORTEDLY INCLUDED PERSONAL ASSISTANTS, ADVISORS, AND DEPUTIES ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS MINISTRIES, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTRY.

3. THE PERSONNEL CHANGES, ESPECIALLY THE REMOVAL OF KARATAS, CAME UNDER SHARP CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AS BEING IMPROPER IN THE CASE OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOT YET WON A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. DEMIREL CALLED KARATAS'S REMOVAL FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT ECEVIT INTENDS TO ILLEGALLY OCCUPY THE GOVERNMENT FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN, WHO HAS LONG BEEN DEMANDING KARATAS'S REMOVAL BECAUSE OF TRT'S ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE NSP, STATED THAT " IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCEPT THE PRESENT

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GROUP'S (I.E., THE GOVERNMENT'S) REMOVAL" OF THE TRT DIRECTOR. ERBAKAN SAID THAT "ALL THESE ILLEGAL ACTS WILL BE CORRECTED IN THE SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE BY A LEGAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WILL BE FORMED." CRITICIZING ALL THE PERSONNEL CHANGES, NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN TRUKES SAID THAT ECEVIT'S HASTY "EXILING" OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS WAS A CAUSE OF CONCERN TO THE NATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL STABILITY, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770628/aaaaaygl.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e616078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 4748
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2061275
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONALIST PARTIES CONTINUE OPPOSITION TO NEW TURKISH GOVERN- MENT
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TU, JP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e616078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009